



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2022-1235; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00475-T]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to supersede Airworthiness Directive

(AD) 2022-07-10, which applies to all Airbus SAS Model A350-941 and -1041 airplanes.

AD 2022-07-10 requires revising the operator's existing FAA-approved minimum equipment list (MEL) to include dispatch restrictions. AD 2022-07-10 also allows operators to inspect affected parts for discrepancies, and do applicable replacements, in order to terminate the revision of the operator's existing MEL. AD 2022-07-10 also prohibits the installation of affected parts. Since the FAA issued AD 2022-07-10, a determination was made that the optional inspection and applicable replacements should be required. This proposed AD continues to require the actions in AD 2022-07-10, and would mandate the inspection of affected parts and applicable replacements, as specified in a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD, which was incorporated by reference. The FAA is proposing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: The FAA must receive comments on this proposed AD by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- Fax: 202-493-2251.

- Mail: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

- Hand Delivery: Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2022-1235; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this NPRM, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

- For EASA AD 2022-0031, dated February 25, 2022, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; Internet easa.europa.eu. You may find this material on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu. It is also available in the AD docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2022-1235.

- For Kidde Aerospace & Defense service information, contact Kidde Aerospace & Defense, 4200 Airport Drive NW, Building B, Wilson, NC 27896; telephone: 319-295-5000; website: kiddetechnologies.com/aviation.com.

- You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Rodina, Aerospace Engineer,
Large Aircraft Section, FAA, International Validation Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des
Moines, WA 98198; telephone 206-231-3225; email dan.rodina@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

The FAA invites you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this proposal. Send your comments to an address listed under ADDRESSES. Include “Docket No. FAA-2022-1235; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00475-T” at the beginning of your comments. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this proposal because of those comments.

Except for Confidential Business Information (CBI) as described in the following paragraph, and other information as described in 14 CFR 11.35, the FAA will post all comments received, without change, to regulations.gov, including any personal information you provide. The agency will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact received about this NPRM.

Confidential Business Information

CBI is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this NPRM contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this NPRM, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission containing CBI as “PROPIN.” The FAA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the FOIA, and they will not be placed in the public

docket of this NPRM. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Dan Rodina, Aerospace Engineer, Large Aircraft Section, FAA, International Validation Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; telephone 206-231-3225; email dan.rodina@faa.gov. Any commentary that the FAA receives which is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

Background

The FAA issued AD 2022-07-10, Amendment 39-21998 (87 FR 19622, April 5, 2022) (AD 2022-07-10), for all Airbus SAS Model A350-941 and -1041 airplanes. AD 2022-07-10 was prompted by MCAI originated by EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union. EASA issued EASA AD 2022-0031, dated February 25, 2022 (EASA AD 2022-0031) (also referred to as the MCAI), to correct an unsafe condition identified as undetected thermal bleed leak events that might not be isolated during flight, possibly resulting in localized areas of the wing structure being exposed to high temperatures and consequent reduced structural integrity of the airplane.

AD 2022-07-10 requires revising the operator's existing FAA-approved MEL to include dispatch restrictions. AD 2022-07-10 also allows operators to inspect affected parts for discrepancies, and do applicable replacements, in order to terminate the revision of the operator's existing MEL. AD 2022-07-10 also prohibits the installation of affected parts. The FAA issued AD 2022-07-10 to address undetected thermal bleed leak events that might not be isolated during flight, possibly resulting in localized areas of the wing structure being exposed to high temperatures and consequent reduced structural integrity of the airplane.

Actions Since AD 2022-07-10 Was Issued

Since the FAA issued AD 2022-07-10, the FAA has determined that further rulemaking is necessary to mandate the detailed inspection of affected parts, and

replacement, if applicable, that were optional actions in AD 2022-07-10.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2022-1235.

Explanation of Retained Requirements

Although this proposed AD does not explicitly restate the requirements of AD 2022-07-10, this proposed AD would retain all of the requirements of AD 2022-07-10. Those requirements are referenced in EASA AD 2022-0031, which, in turn, is referenced in paragraph (g) of this proposed AD.

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

This AD requires EASA AD 2022-0031, which the Director of the Federal Register approved for incorporation by reference as of April 20, 2022 (87 FR 19622, April 5, 2022).

This AD also requires Kidde Aerospace & Defense Service Bulletin CFD-26-3, dated January 13, 2022, which the Director of the Federal Register approved for incorporation by reference as of April 20, 2022 (87 FR 19622, April 5, 2022).

This material is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the ADDRESSES section.

FAA's Determination

This product has been approved by the aviation authority of another country and is approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA's bilateral agreement with the State of Design Authority, it has notified the FAA of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI and service information referenced above. The FAA is issuing this NPRM after determining that the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop in other products of the same type design.

Proposed AD Requirements in this NPRM

This proposed AD would retain all of the requirements of AD 2022-07-10. This proposed AD would require accomplishing the actions specified in EASA AD 2022-0031 described previously, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this proposed AD. This proposed AD would also prohibit the installation of affected parts.

EASA AD 2022-0031 requires operators to “inform all flight crews” of revisions to the MEL, and thereafter to “operate the aeroplane accordingly.” However, this proposed AD would not specifically require those actions as they are already required by FAA regulations. FAA regulations (14 CFR 121.628(a)(2)) require operators to provide pilots with access to all of the information contained in the operator’s MEL. Furthermore, 14 CFR 121.628(a)(5) requires airplanes to be operated under all applicable conditions and limitations contained in the operator’s MEL. Therefore, including a requirement in this proposed AD to operate the airplane according to the revised MEL would be redundant and unnecessary.

Explanation of Required Compliance Information

In the FAA’s ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency of the AD process, the FAA developed a process to use some civil aviation authority (CAA) ADs as the primary source of information for compliance with requirements for corresponding FAA ADs. The FAA has been coordinating this process with manufacturers and CAAs. As a result, the FAA proposes to retain the incorporation by reference of EASA AD 2022-0031 in the FAA final rule. This proposed AD would, therefore, require compliance with EASA AD 2022-0031 in its entirety through that incorporation, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this proposed AD. Using common terms that are the same as the heading of a particular section in EASA AD 2022-0031 does not mean that operators need comply only with that section. For example, where the AD requirement refers to “all required actions and compliance times,” compliance with this

AD requirement is not limited to the section titled “Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s)” in EASA AD 2022-0031. Service information required by EASA AD 2022-0031 for compliance will be available at regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2022-1235 after the FAA final rule is published.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this proposed AD affects 29 airplanes of U.S. registry. The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this proposed AD:

Estimated costs for required actions

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product	Cost on U.S. operators
Retained actions from AD 2022-07-10	1 work-hour X \$85 per hour = \$85	\$0	\$85	\$2,465
New proposed actions	13 work-hours X \$85 per hour = \$1,105	\$0	\$1,105	\$32,045

The FAA estimates the following costs to do any necessary on-condition action that would be required based on the results of any optional actions. The FAA has no way of determining the number of aircraft that might need this on-condition action:

Estimated costs of on-condition actions

Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product
1 work-hour X \$85 per hour = \$85	\$795	\$880

According to the manufacturer, some or all of the costs of this proposed AD may be covered under warranty, thereby reducing the cost impact on affected individuals. The FAA does not control warranty coverage for affected individuals. As a result, the FAA has included all known costs in the cost estimate.

Authority for this Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

The FAA is issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements. Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

Regulatory Findings

The FAA determined that this proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD would not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify this proposed regulation:

- (1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866,
- (2) Would not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
- (3) Would not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA proposes to amend 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

PART 39 - AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by:

a. Removing Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2022-07-10, Amendment 39-21998 (87 FR 19622, April 5, 2022); and

b. Adding the following new AD:

Airbus SAS: Docket No. FAA-2022-1235; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00475-T.

(a) Comments Due Date

The FAA must receive comments on this airworthiness directive (AD) by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

(b) Affected ADs

This AD replaces AD 2022-07-10, Amendment 39-21998 (87 FR 19622, April 5, 2022) (AD 2022-07-10).

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to all Airbus SAS Model A350-941 and -1041 airplanes, certificated in any category.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 36, Pneumatic.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by a report that certain overheat detection system (OHDS) sensing elements may not properly detect thermal bleed leak events due to a quality

escape during the manufacturing process, and by a determination that an optional inspection and applicable replacements should be required. The FAA is issuing this AD to address undetected thermal bleed leak events that might not be isolated during flight, possibly resulting in localized areas of the wing structure being exposed to high temperatures and consequent reduced structural integrity of the airplane.

(f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

(g) Requirements

Except as specified in paragraph (h) of this AD: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2022-0031, dated February 25, 2022 (EASA AD 2022-0031).

(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2022-0031

(1) Where paragraphs (1) and (4) of EASA AD 2022-0031 refer to its effective date, this AD requires using April 20, 2022 (the effective date of AD 2022-07-10).

(2) Where paragraph (2) of EASA AD 2022-0031 refers to its effective date, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(3) Where EASA AD 2022-0031 has a definition for “Affected part” and refers to “the VSB [vendor service bulletin]” for the part numbers and date codes, for this AD, use Kidde Aerospace & Defense Service Bulletin CFD-26-3, dated January 13, 2022, as “the VSB” for the part numbers and date codes.

(4) Where EASA AD 2022-0031 has a definition for “Groups” and identifies certain airplanes as Group 2 airplanes, replace the text, “An aeroplane having an MSN [manufacturer serial number] not listed in the Section 1.A of the SB is Group 2, provided it is determined that no affected part has been installed on any affected position of that aeroplane since Airbus date of manufacture” with “An aeroplane having an MSN not

listed in the Section 1.A of Airbus Service Bulletin A350-36-P032, dated December 3, 2021, is Group 2, provided it is determined that no affected part has been installed on any affected position of that aeroplane since Airbus date of manufacture.”

(5) Where paragraph (1) of EASA 2022-0031 specifies to “inform all flight crews, and, thereafter, operate the aeroplane accordingly,” this AD does not require those actions as those actions are already required by existing FAA operating regulations (see 14 CFR 121.628(a)(2) and 14 CFR 121.628(a)(5)).

(6) Where paragraph (3) of EASA 2022-0031 specifies action if “any discrepancy as defined in the SB is detected,” for this AD a discrepancy is when the related electronic centralized aircraft monitoring (ECAM) warning is not displayed after a heat gun test is done.

(7) The “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2022-0031 does not apply to this AD.

(i) No Reporting Requirement and No Return of Parts

(1) Although the service information referenced in EASA AD 2022-0031 specifies to submit certain information to the manufacturer, this AD does not include that requirement.

(2) Although the service information referenced in EASA AD 2022-0031 specifies to return certain parts to the manufacturer, this AD does not include that requirement.

(j) Additional FAA AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) *Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)*: The Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or responsible Flight Standards Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the International Validation Branch, send it

to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (k)(2) of this AD. Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the responsible Flight Standards Office.

(2) *Contacting the Manufacturer*: For any requirement in this AD to obtain instructions from a manufacturer, the instructions must be accomplished using a method approved by the Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA; or EASA; or Airbus SAS's EASA Design Organization Approval (DOA). If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(3) *Required for Compliance (RC)*: Except as required by paragraphs (i) and (j)(2) of this AD, if any service information contains procedures or tests that are identified as RC, those procedures and tests must be done to comply with this AD; any procedures or tests that are not identified as RC are recommended. Those procedures and tests that are not identified as RC may be deviated from using accepted methods in accordance with the operator's maintenance or inspection program without obtaining approval of an AMOC, provided the procedures and tests identified as RC can be done and the airplane can be put back in an airworthy condition. Any substitutions or changes to procedures or tests identified as RC require approval of an AMOC.

(k) Additional Information

(1) For EASA AD 2022-0031, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; website easa.europa.eu. You may find this EASA AD on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu. You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195. This material may be found in the AD docket at regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2022-1235.

(2) For more information about this AD, contact Dan Rodina, Aerospace Engineer, Large Aircraft Section, FAA, International Validation Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; telephone 206-231-3225; email dan.rodina@faa.gov.

(I) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless this AD specifies otherwise.

(3) The following service information was approved for IBR on April 20, 2022 (87 FR 19622, April 5, 2022).

(i) European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2022-0031, dated February 25, 2022.

(ii) Kidde Aerospace & Defense Service Bulletin CFD-26-3, dated January 13, 2022.

(4) For EASA AD 2022-0031, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; website easa.europa.eu. You may find this EASA AD on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu.

(5) For Kidde Aerospace & Defense service information, contact Kidde Aerospace & Defense, 4200 Airport Drive NW, Building B, Wilson, NC 27896; telephone: 319-295-5000; website: kiddetechnologies.com/aviation.com.

(6) You may view this service information at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195.

(7) You may view this service information that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the

availability of this material at NARA, email fr.inspection@nara.gov, or go to:

www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html.

Issued on September 21, 2022.

Christina Underwood, Acting Director,
Compliance & Airworthiness Division,
Aircraft Certification Service.

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